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News: Zika Virus

- Recently, the **Karnataka State Health Department** issued an alert following **Zika virus detection in mosquito samples** from Talakayalabetta, Chikkaballapura village.

Zika Virus

- Zika virus is a **mosquito-borne flavivirus** that was first identified in **Uganda in 1947 in monkeys**. It was later identified in humans in 1952 in **Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania**.
- ZVD is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by **Aedes mosquitoes (AM)**, mainly **Aedes aegypti**. This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever.
- Zika virus is also transmitted from **mother to fetus during pregnancy**, through **sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products, and organ transplantation**.

Symptoms

- Symptoms are generally mild and include fever, **rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache**. Most people with Zika virus infection do not develop symptoms.

- Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly (smaller than normal head size) and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome.
- There is **no vaccine or medicine for Zika**. Instead, the focus is on relieving symptoms and includes rest, rehydration and acetaminophen for fever and pain.
- Recently, **Zika Virus Disease (ZVD) was reported for the first time in Kerala**.
- The **Kerala Health Department has formulated an action plan** for coordinated efforts to check the spread of Zika infection in the State.